

# **KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

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It is certified that the enclosures with the present letter are a true copy of the documents accompanying the application for patent of invention as filed in Belgium according to the particulars shown on the annexed filing certificate.

Brussels, 3-7-2003

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**MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
SERVICE FOR INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY**

**MINUTES REGARDING THE FILING OF  
A PATENT APPLICATION**

No. 2002/0442

Today, 17/07/2002 in Brussels, at 16 hours 35 minutes.  
at the Service for Industrial Property a mail delivery arrived containing an application for a patent of  
invention relating to: "Dryer with a rotary drying drum".

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as ☒ chartered attorney of the applicant.  
☐ attorney  
☐ applicant's residence  
☐ applicant

The application, as filed, contains documents which, in accordance with article 16, paragraph 1 of the Law  
of March 28, 1984, are required in order to obtain a filing date.

The authorized registrar

Ir. F. VERSTRAELEN  
Director

Brussels, 17/07/2002

Dryer with a rotary drying drum.

5 The present invention concerns a dryer with a rotary drying drum, in particular a dryer for drying linen or the like, with a drive which at least consists of an electric motor coupled to the drying drum in order to move the drying drum in a rotating manner.

10

In the embodiments of such dryers known until now, use is made of the most conventional asynchronous electric motors for said drive, in other words electric motors having a limited number of electric poles and producing a relatively  
15 large engine speed, whereby this engine speed is then conventionally reduced via a multiple transmission to the usual rotational speed required for the drive of the drying drum.

20 The present invention aims a dryer, in particular a drive for the drying drum of such a dryer, which dryer, drive respectively, has been improved in relation to the above-mentioned known embodiments in various aspects.

25 To this end, the invention concerns a dryer with a rotary drying drum, in particular a dryer for drying linen or the like, with a drive which at least consists of an electric motor coupled to the drying drum in order to move the drying drum in a rotating manner, characterized in that the  
30 aforesaid electric motor consists of a motor, in particular

a motor which can be connected to the usual alternating current mains, with at least ten poles.

By using an electric motor having at least ten poles, in other words a large number of poles as opposed to the number of poles of the known motors which are traditionally used in dryers, is obtained that the applied electric motor according to the invention turns relatively slowly when it is connected to the usual alternating current mains, for example of 220 V or 380 V and 50 Hz, which offers the advantage that the above-mentioned transmission is less heavily loaded, less subject to wear and moreover, at least according to a preferred embodiment, that the usual multiple transmission can be replaced by a simpler embodiment, which results in a considerable space saving in the housing of the dryer, as less parts are required for the transmission, and also less bearings have to be built in, for example for intermediate shafts.

The aforesaid electric motor preferably even has more than 10 poles, for example 12, 14, 16, 20 or 22 poles, making the above-mentioned advantages even more obvious. According to the most preferred embodiment, however, it will have 18 poles, as an optimal compromise is obtained with this number of poles between the aimed effect of the invention on the one hand and its practical embodiment on the other hand. A number of poles which is too large is disadvantageous in that the motor itself becomes too large.

Since, as mentioned above, it is now possible to couple the drying drum to the shaft of the electric motor via just a

single transmission, such a single transmission will preferably be applied. Although the transmission ratio of this transmission may be of any nature whatsoever, it will preferably have a transmission ratio providing for a reduction, in particular in such a way that the drying drum has a lower rotational speed than the shaft of the above-mentioned electric motor. Thus, it is possible to realize an optimal transmission between the electric motor and the drying drum with a minimum number of parts thanks to the combination of characteristics, namely that just a single transmission is applied on the one hand, and that an electric motor with at least 10 poles is used on the other hand.

In a practical embodiment, use is made of an endless transmission element for the transmission, such as a belt or the like, which provides for a direct transmission of the motor shaft to the drying drum.

In practice, the transmission ratio of the transmission will be selected such that the rotational speed of the drying drum amounts to less than 50 revolutions per minute. Initially, by an electric motor is meant an asynchronous motor, but variants are not excluded.

It should be noted that the use of just a single transmission naturally also offers the advantages linked thereto, even when another motor than a motor with at least ten poles is used. According to a second aspect of the invention, it also concerns a dryer with a rotary drying drum, in particular a dryer for drying linen or the like,

with a drive which at least consists of an electric motor coupled to the drying drum in order to move the drying drum in a rotating manner, characterized in that the drying drum is coupled to the shaft of the electric motor via a single transmission and in that the electric motor is embodied  
5 such that, via this single transmission, is obtained a rotational speed in the drying drum of the usual order of magnitude, in particular a rotational speed of less than 100 revolutions per minute, better still less than 50  
10 revolutions per minute.

In order to better explain the characteristics of the invention, the following preferred embodiment is described as an example only without being limitative in any way,  
15 with reference to the sole accompanying drawing which schematically represents a dryer according to the invention.

As is represented in figure 1 in a strongly schematic  
20 manner, the invention concerns a dryer 1 with a rotary drying drum 2.

In the given example, this rotary drying drum 2 is provided in a fixed outer drum 3 which has in turn been built in in  
25 the housing 4 of the drying drum 1.

In the drying drum 2 can be put linen or the like, can be removed from it respectively, via an access opening 5 which can be sealed by means of a door 6.

The drying drum 2 can be driven in a rotating manner, for example in a single direction of rotation or alternately in both directions of rotation, by means of a drive 7 which at least consists of an electric motor 8 which is coupled to  
5 the drying drum 2 by means of a transmission 9.

Further, the drying drum 1 is equipped with air suction means and heating means 10 with which can be created a hot air flow within the space of the drying drum 2 via a supply  
10 pipe 11 and a discharge pipe 12 which are merely represented schematically. Naturally, other ways of air treatment are possible according to variants, for example via a closed circuit, whereby the moisture which has been removed from the linen condenses and is collected.

15

The invention is special in that the above-mentioned electric motor 8 has at least ten poles, and preferably eighteen poles, which results in the advantages as mentioned in the introduction. Preference is hereby given  
20 to an asynchronous motor 8.

Exactly how an asynchronous motor 8 with a specific number of poles should be realized is known as such, and the construction of such a motor is within the reach of any  
25 professional. For clarity's sake is further mentioned that by a ten-poled motor should be understood a motor whereby, at the perimeter of the air slot between the rotor and stator, there are five areas with incoming flux and five areas with outgoing flux. In case of several poles, the  
30 argumentation is analogous.

Another special characteristic of the invention consists in that the transmission 9 is formed of a simple transmission, in particular a transmission making use of an endless transmission element, namely a belt 13, which provides for  
5 a direct transmission from the motor shaft 14 to the dryer drum shaft 15, in other words the shaft of the dryer drum 2, by means of pulleys 16 and 17 respectively provided upon it.

10 As represented in figure 1, the transmission 9 provides for a reduction of the rotational speed as the pulley 16 has a smaller diameter than the pulley 17.

It is clear that a particularly simple construction is  
15 obtained in this manner, which is moreover little liable to wear and which also saves space in the housing 4, so that the whole can either be made smaller, or so that more space becomes available for other parts, for example for a larger drying drum 2 or also for extending the peripherals, by  
20 which is meant for example the air suction means and heating means 10.

The invention is by no means limited to the above-described embodiment given as an example and represented in the  
25 accompanying drawings; on the contrary, such a dryer can be made in different shapes and dimensions while still remaining within the scope of the invention.

Claims.

- 5        1. Dryer with a rotary drying drum, in particular a  
dryer (1) for drying linen or the like, with a drive  
      (7) which at least consists of an electric motor (8)  
coupled to the drying drum (2) in order to move the  
drying drum (2) in a rotating manner, characterized  
10        in that the above-mentioned electric motor (8)  
consists of a motor with at least ten poles.
2. Dryer according to claim 1, characterized in that the  
above-mentioned electric motor (8) has 12, 14, 16, 20  
15        or 22 poles (13).
3. Dryer according to claim 1, characterized in that the  
above-mentioned electric motor (8) has eighteen poles  
      (13).
- 20        4. Dryer according to any of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that the drying drum (2) is coupled  
to the shaft (15) of the electric motor (8) via a  
single transmission (9).
- 25        5. Dryer according to claim 4, characterized in that the  
above-mentioned transmission (9) has a transmission  
ratio providing for a reduction, in particular such  
that the dryer (2) has a lower rotational speed than  
30        the shaft (14) of the above-mentioned electric motor  
(8).

6. Dryer according to claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the transmission (9) makes use of an endless transmission element, such as a belt (13) or the like, which provides for a direct transmission of the motor shaft (14) to the drying drum shaft (15).

7. Dryer according to any of claims 4 to 6, characterized in that the above-mentioned electric motor (8) consists of an asynchronous motor.

8. Dryer according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the rotational speed of the dryer drum (2) amounts to less than 50 revolutions per minute.

9. Dryer with a rotary drying drum, in particular a dryer (1) for drying linen or the like, with a drive (7) which at least consists of an electric motor (8) coupled to the drying drum (2) in order to move the drying drum (2) in a rotating manner, characterized in that the drying drum (2) is coupled to the shaft (14) of the electric motor (8) via a single transmission (9) and in that the electric motor (8) is embodied such that, via this single transmission (9), is obtained a rotational speed in the drying drum (2) of the usual order of magnitude, in particular a rotational speed of less than 100 revolutions per minute, better still less than 50 revolutions per minute.